

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 15 has been amended to provide an antecedent basis for the fiber surface.

Claims 1-2 and 4-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pittman.

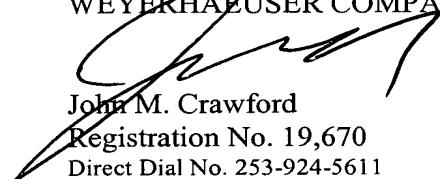
Pittman discloses cellulose fibers held together by polyolefin binder fibers. An enhancement agent – titanium dioxide, talc, silica, alum, calcium carbonate, calcium oxide, magnesium and other oxides – is dispersed within the polymer. See the paragraph beginning on line 15 of column 4. “The particle size, in order to achieve good dispersion within the polymer and good spinnability is in the range of 0.04 to about 5 microns, and preferably in the range of 0.05 to 2 microns. [emphasis added]” Material within the polymer is not capable of reducing the amount of hydrogen sulfide present in the environment surrounding the pulp fiber.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being unpatentable over Pittman in view of Hochwalt. Hochwalt is cited for the disclosure of zeolites. Dispersing the zeolites of Hochwalt et al within the binder fibers of Pittman would not allow them to be capable of reducing the amount of hydrogen sulfide present in the environment surrounding the pulp fiber.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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